

# I BELIEVE

A Faith Statement by Kat Miller

**I BELIEVE that God is good** because he accepts everyone into heaven. If you have faith, he will accept you whether you are a sinner or a saint.

**I BELIEVE that God is our Creator** because in Genesis 1, God created the world and everything in it. He created human life through Adam and Eve; he created animals, night and day, and everything else.

**I BELIEVE that God is forgiving** because he sent his one and only son, Jesus, to be crucified so that all sinners could be sent to heaven.

**I BELIEVE that sin is evil** and I believe that to get rid of sin we have to pray and believe in Jesus. Jesus died to save us all from our sins. If we don't have faith in him, we cannot be saved.

**I BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is humble** because he risked his own life to save sinners without expecting anything in return. Jesus spent most of his life healing and helping those in need when he didn't have to.

**I BELIEVE that Jesus Christ taught us to help people in need** because that's exactly what he did and we need more people like Jesus in our world. Jesus helped people who were sick and made them healthy again. He did this many times and helped everyone he could.

**I BELIEVE that Jesus Christ died on the cross so that we can be forever forgiven of our sins.** Nobody is perfect and everybody sins. Jesus made it so that we can all go to heaven if we believe in him and God.

**I BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit is all-powerful** because I believe that it is how God moves on Earth, and God is all-powerful.

**I BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit works in this world by living inside everyone who believes in God.** For example, there was a shooting at a southern university, and a boy named **Riley Howell** jumped in front of the shooter to save the lives of many other people, which ultimately cost him his life. I believe that the Holy Spirit moved in that boy.

**I BELIEVE that the church is supposed to be a welcoming place.** I believe this because we, as United Methodists, should accept everyone. We practice an open table during communion, and I believe we should practice open everything in our church.

**I BELIEVE that one of the purposes of the church is to accept everyone,** so that our society can be more accepting as a whole in every aspect.

**I BELIEVE in the Sacraments of communion and baptism.** Baptism symbolizes that we have been cleansed of our sins and that we are now part of God's kingdom. Baptism is important to me because it shows that people are willing to give themselves to God and show their faith. They submit to cleansing their sins, just as Jesus did. Communion is when we symbolically eat the blood and flesh of Jesus Christ. Communion to me means that we are all disciples because we are reenacting the Last Supper.

**I BELIEVE that in order to live a holy life I must accept God and everyone in the world he has created.** If I cannot do that, then I believe I cannot truly be a good Christian.

**I BELIEVE the Good News, when Jesus was resurrected from the dead.** I share the Good News through celebrating Easter with the people that I love. I also share the Good News by believing that we will all have everlasting life and that I will meet again with people I love who are in heaven.

**I BELIEVE the most important values of a Christian life are to accept everyone who is willing to believe in being a good person in God's realm.** No matter who they are, whether they are Muslim, Jewish, male, female, gay, straight, black, or white, everyone has the potential to be a good person and be faithful to how God made them. I cannot accept being a United Methodist Christian if we cannot accept people the way they are. God made everyone in a specific way and in his image. I believe that God is neither a man nor a woman, so I don't think we can discriminate against people for who they are. If we are truly going to be good Christians, we have to not only remember how God made people, but we also have to remember the values of being a good member of society as well. I don't know if I want to be a member of the United Methodist Church as it is today. The reason is that one of my best friends who has known me since I was born is gay. My god brother, in fact. I know that he is a good person and that he is the way God made him. I cannot accept the fact that the United Methodist Church is not completely accepting of that. One day, I will have children. Maybe one of my children will be gay. I don't want to explain to them that when I was younger, I was confirmed in a church that put people on trial and found them guilty of being gay. I wouldn't be able to live with the fact that I didn't do anything to stand up for what I believed in.

Who are United Methodists and what do they stand for?

*"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)*

*"For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them." (Matthew 23:13)*